

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01241 211805Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 181830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9230

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1241

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1.: "BARBADOS" VICE "ANTIGUA"
IN LINE 6)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA PFOR

SUBJ: RECENT VISIT TO US OF PREMIER GEORGE WALTER OF ANTIGUA

1. AS DEPT AWARE, PREMIER GEORGE WALTER OF ANTIGUA RECENTLY VISITED WASHINGTON AND HELD TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF USG PRESUMABLY WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. I FIRST LEARNED OF THESE TALKS WHEN DCM, IN COURSE OF ROUTINE VISIT TO ANTIGUA, MET WALTER AND WAS INFORMED OF THEM. WALTER ALSO TOLD DCM THAT HE WOULD BE PASSING THROUGH BARBADOS ON WAY HOME FROM A CONFERENCE IN NOVA SCOTIA WEEK OF JULY 14 AND WOULD CALL ON AMBASSADOR, TO WHOM HE SENT WARMEST REGARDS. ALTHOUGH WALTER DID, IN FACT, TRANSIT BARBADOS AND EVEN REMAINED HERE FOR SOME TIME, I DID NOT HEAR FROM HIM. HE WAS HOSTED AT A PARTY BY CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR BLACKMAN.

2. BEING COGNIZANT OF WALTER'S INEXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND LACK OF COORDINATION IN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, I AM NOT INCLINED TO TAKE THESE FAILURES TO OBSERVE PROPER COURTESIES TOO SERIOUSLY, NOR AM I OFFENDED. OUR PERSONAL RELATIONS ARE VERY GOOD, AND I BELIEVE HE REGARDS ME AS A FRIEND. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT, SO LONG AS HE CONTINUES TO COMMIT THESE "OVERSIGHTS", PROBLEMS MAY BE CREATED THAT COULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. WITH THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND, I CALLED GOVERNOR OF ANTIGUA, SIR WILFRED JACOBS, BY TELEPHONE AND, KNOWING THAT JACOBS (UNLIKE MOST OTHER GOVERNORS IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN) PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE

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IN GOVERNMENT, INSISTING, FOR EXAMPLE, ON BEING SHOWN ALL DRAFT

BILLS BEFORE THEY GO THE FULL PARLIAMENTARY ROUTE, I ASKED HIM TO POINT OUT TO THE PREMIER THAT NOT ONLY PROTOCOL BUT ALSO GOOD PRACTICE REQUIRED THAT EMBASSY BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF TRAVEL TO US BY MINISTERS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. JACOBS PROMISED TO DO SO BUT POINTED OUT THAT WALTER WAS NOTORIOUSLY BADLY ORGANIZED.

3. SHOULD WALTER AGAIN CONTACT DEPT DIRECTLY, I HOPE EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACQUAINT HIM WITH EMBASSY'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS ANTIGUA AND TO BRING HIM TO UNDERSTANDING OF FACT THAT ALTHOUGH HIS PRESENCE MAY BE WELCOMED AT STATE, HIS CONTACTS WITH USG SHOULD PROPERLY BE CONDUCTED THROUGH ME. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WALTERS HAS A PROBLEM WITH ME OR MY STAFF, WE WOULD EXPECT PROMPT NOTICE.
BRITTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRIDGE01241
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750251-0780
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750739/aaaabjax.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT VISIT TO US OF PREMIER GEORGE WALTER OF ANTIGUA
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, AC, BB, US, (WALTER, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006